

We claim:

1. A method for performing a competitive immunoassay for detecting C-reactive protein comprising:
  - i. contacting a sample with an immobilized a low affinity anti-human C-reactive protein antibody and a labeled antiidiotypic antibody,
  - ii. detecting the label, and
  - iii. correlating the detection of the label with the amount of C-reactive protein in the sample.
2. A method for performing a competitive immunoassay for detecting c-reactive protein comprising:
  - i. contacting a sample with an immobilized antiidiotypic antibody and a labeled low affinity anti-human C-reactive protein antibody,
  - ii. detecting the label, and
  - iii. correlating the detection of the label with the amount of C-reactive protein in the sample.
3. The method of claim 8 wherein the low affinity anti-human C-reactive protein antibody is CRP5-23.
4. The method of claim 9 wherein the antiidiotypic antibody is antibody is capable of binding CRP5-23.
5. A kit for a competitive immunoassay comprising: a first antibody wherein said first antibody is a low affinity anti-human C-reactive protein antibody and a second antibody where said second antibody is an antiidiotypic antibody capable of binding said first antibody.

6. A hybridoma cell line, identified as CRP5-23, capable of producing a low affinity anti-human C-reactive protein antibody.
7. An antibody produced by the hybridoma of claim 6.
- 5 8. The antibody of claim 7 wherein said antibody is insensitive to ionized calcium.
9. An antiidiotypic antibody raised against a low affinity anti-human C-reactive protein antibody.
10. A hybridoma cell line, identified as C23id2-6.3, capable of producing an antiidiotypic antibody.